



Annual Review

2009-2010

Caring for older Freemasons and their dependants for over 160 years



The RMBI seeks to offer high quality care, support and assistance to older Freemasons and their dependants.

We are committed to ensuring that the individual's right to dignity, respect, choice and control over their own lives is upheld and maintained.



"I love living here. The staff are absolutely marvellous and very friendly. They are very hard working and show great patience."

A resident at Cadogan Court, Exeter

Introduction

The RMBI has been caring for older Freemasons and their dependants for over 160 years. We operate 17 care homes across England and Wales offering a range of high quality care. Many of our Homes are registered for both residential and nursing care and all can offer places to people with dementia, following an assessment of their needs.

We also have limited sheltered accommodation for those who prefer to live more independently, but with support on hand in case of an emergency.

At the RMBI, we believe in treating everyone as an individual. Every potential resident is assessed to find out what type of care package would best meet their needs and we devise a tailor-made care plan for each individual.

In this review, we give details of our care strategy and how as an organisation we have integrated our business operations. This is done so to ensure we provide a tailored service to our residents that gives them a fulfilling a life as possible.

Here is a snapshot from our annual quality survey of how our care services are making a real difference to many people's lives:

- **93%** of residents felt they were encouraged to do things for themselves and maintain their independence.
- **97%** of residents felt they were able to maintain their privacy whilst living at the Home.
- **96%** of relatives felt the needs of their loved ones are mostly met, with **91%** stating that they could contribute ideas to the care given to their relative.

We hope this Annual Review will inspire you to choose an RMBI Home.

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Message from the President



Willie E Shackell, CBE

It is always pleasing to be able to report on another very successful year for the RMBl. We have continued to improve the facilities at many of our Homes and the Trustees have agreed to go ahead with a major rebuild at James Terry Court in Croydon.

Our Provinces in Festival continue to exceed all expectations and the London Appeal raised the amazing sum of £6.33m. As in previous years, the Trustees have been delighted to be involved in so many enjoyable fundraising activities.

The Friends of the RMBl and the many Associations of Friends at the Homes continue to provide quite outstanding support in so many ways. The Friends regularly provide over £28,000 for holidays for The Freemasons' Grand Charity Annuitants, other elderly Brethren and their dependants who are in need. The Associations of Friends raise large sums of money for those important 'extras' in the Homes and are also most generous in giving up their time to our residents. Thank you so much.

This has been the first year of both the new Constitution and an enlarged Council, which has brought on board representatives from each of our Associations of Friends, the Friends of the RMBl and our two Craft Lodges. Debate has been enriched by their presence and we have been able to improve communication within the Craft and the RMBl.

Selection and appointment of Trustees is now an open process. Prospective Trustees will normally serve on one of our Committees before being formally appointed by Council at our AGM. I am most grateful to all Trustees for

'The RMBl could not function as well as it does if it were not for the dedication and devotion of the staff.'

their help, guidance, advice and support during the last year, and to Council for its encouragement and wise counsel.

The RMBl could not function as well as it does if it were not for the dedication and devotion of the staff. This has not been an easy year for them financially, and I am most grateful to them all for their loyalty, support and enthusiasm. Thank you.

The benefits of co-location with the other three central Masonic Charities are now well proven. Our Care Advice Visitors are now used regularly by both The Freemasons' Grand Charity and the Masonic Samaritan Fund, and they continue to forge closer links with the welfare teams of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys.

Finally, to our residents and others for whom we provide support and care, thank you for letting us know how you feel about the services we provide. Thank you, too, for all the encouragement you give, as it is you who make our work with the RMBl so rewarding.



"Given my mother is living with dementia, I feel I could not have wished for or found a more suitable home, which obviously understand her care needs."

A relative of a resident at The Tithebarn, Liverpool



David Innes

Chief Executive's report

There are some elements of the RMBI which remain remarkably similar from year to year, whilst others change significantly. Our resident population of about 1,000 older people, cared for by approximately 1,250 staff in 17 Homes throughout England and Wales, has not changed for about 12 years. Our annual turnover has also remained reasonably constant at about £36m. Conversely, the changes stemming from new legislation and our developing dementia strategy are proving to be extremely far reaching.

Also on the change side of the equation, we welcomed three new Home Managers during the year, at Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court in Essex, Prince George Duke of Kent Court in Kent and Shannon Court in Surrey. Our Home Managers lie right at the heart of everything we do in the RMBI and provide the pivotal leadership in our Homes. They have an extraordinarily broad remit and carry significant responsibility. I am delighted to say that all three of the new Home Managers have settled in very well and are already having an impact in their respective Homes. Indeed, I should like to thank all members of staff for the outstanding support they provide to our residents.

The RMBI currently has 84 specialist dementia beds, yet around 600 of our residents have some form of dementia. Recent research has shown that many people with dementia do not need to be cared for in specialist wings, so we are introducing a number of initiatives within our Homes that will benefit not only the residents, but also their relatives and our staff. Further detail appears later in this report.

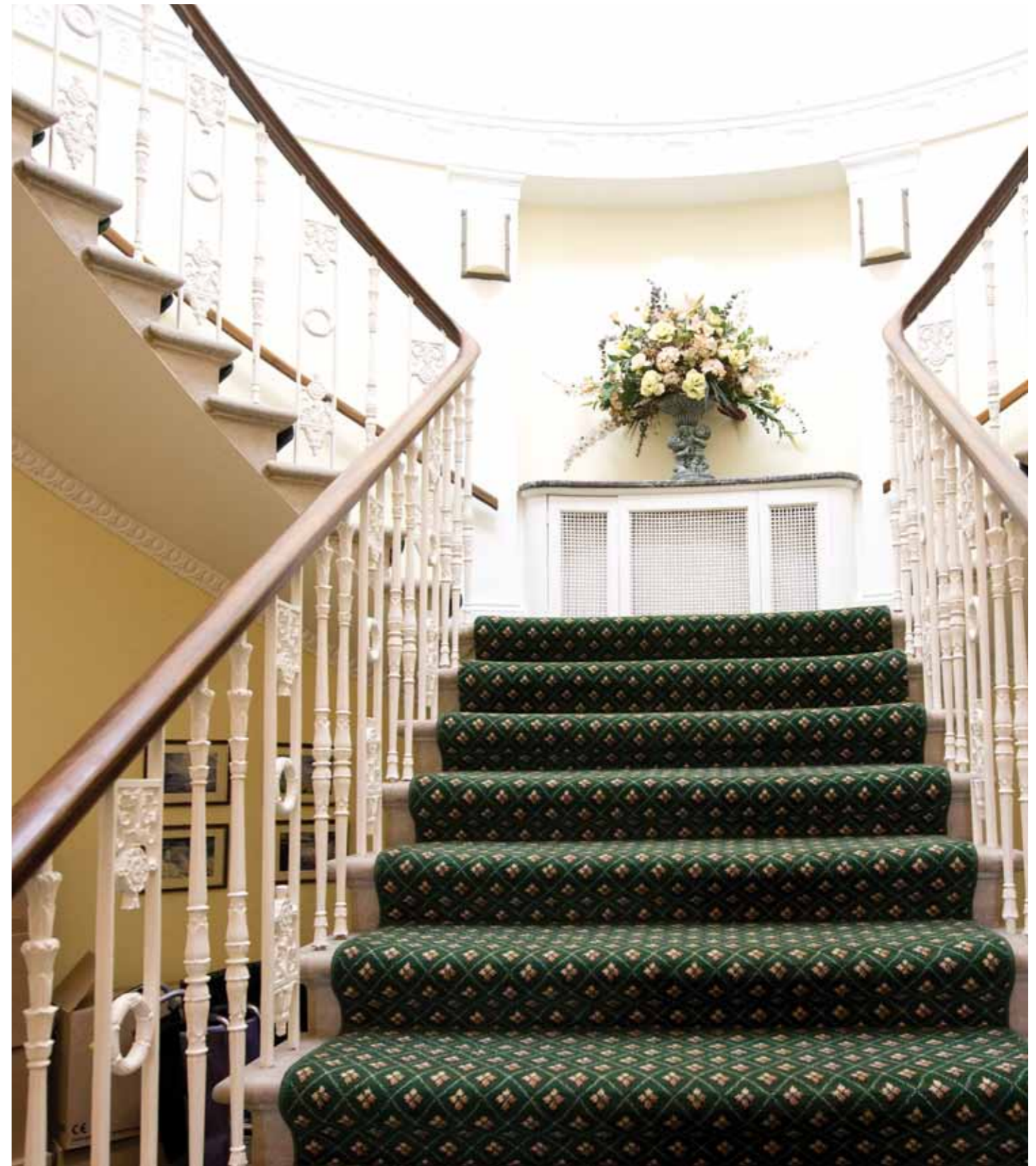
Despite implementing a number of efficiency measures, the unit cost of care continues to rise. Some of this increase has to be passed on to our residents but I am acutely conscious that their pensions and savings are, generally speaking, moving in the

'Our Home Managers lie right at the heart of everything we do in the RMBI and provide the pivotal leadership in our Homes.'

opposite direction. This makes the annual budgeting process extremely challenging and increases the charitable subsidy the RMBI provides to some 40% of our residents. Last year, this amounted to £3.9 million.

Our relationship with the other three central Masonic Charities grows ever stronger and I am delighted that our Care Advice Team is now operating on behalf of us all.

Looking ahead to 2010/11, new legislation is already having a significant impact. I welcome the greater emphasis that will be placed on the service we provide and individual customer satisfaction, but there is much to be done, which I shall report on next year.



"I think the Home helps people to maintain their dignity and I am very pleased with the level of care and attention that my mother receives."

A relative of a resident at James Terry Court, Croydon



“The quality of care and what is offered in the Home is very good and I would not want my mother to be anywhere else.”

A relative of a resident at Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court, Mid Glamorgan

Standards of care

Changes to the major legislation which dictates how care provision is delivered will be implemented from October 2010. The Health and Social Care Act replaces the current National Minimum Standards which have been in force since 2002. This change will significantly alter the way care services are regulated and inspected by the Care Quality Commission, and will inevitably impact on the way in which our Homes operate.

The changes require care providers to offer services where the emphasis is much more about focusing on individual people’s lived experiences within a care home setting. Care providers will be expected to provide evidence that they are offering services which really do offer care and support commensurate with the needs, wants and wishes of individual residents.

All care providers are being re-registered with the Care Quality Commission and will have to prove how they intend to comply with the new legislative requirements. In preparation for this, we have taken a great deal of time over the past year to ensure we are fully prepared to manage this change and many of our care policies have already been rewritten. In addition, all Home Managers have measured their Home’s performance against the 16 essential new standards.



practice will enable us to ensure that the care provision offered to residents is one which they will find appropriate and meaningful for them and their families.

Progressive thinking

Underpinning these changes is the newly-formed Care and HR committee. For the first time we have a sub-group of Trustees, members of the Executive and experienced staff from the Care and HR teams, collectively focusing on implementing the key changes we wish to introduce. Drawing on the extensive experience of the membership within the group, a wide ranging variety of topics, including person centred care planning, legislative changes and how our care services can evolve in the future, have all been discussed within this forum already.

Developing our care strategy

Our care strategy reflects much of the work required by changes linked to the Health and Social Care Act. It also builds on the work we have started within our dementia strategy review, where we are focusing on changing the culture from task-based care to an approach that places residents at the very heart of our care service provision. This work began in earnest during this year and will continue to form a cornerstone of how we move forward with our services in future years. The combination of regulatory required changes and a desire to implement accepted best

‘We have taken a great deal of time over the past year to ensure we are fully prepared to manage this change.’

“My mother is very well treated and is safe and comfortable.”

A relative of a resident at Devonshire Court, Leicester



“I feel very happy to be living here because I am receiving the care I could not have in my own home.”

A resident at Queen Elizabeth Court, Llandudno

Dementia care

Part of the RMBI's role is to research current strategy and best practice in dementia care, and transfer that into workable solutions for the organisation.

We had been looking into the possibility of building more stand-alone specialist dementia support units throughout our care homes. However, as two thirds of people living in care homes have some form of dementia (Dementia UK), we have adopted a more robust, long-term strategy to enable us to provide a high quality service to those residents with dementia and to their families.

The dementia strategy we have developed is designed to enable staff working in our care homes to provide a service to those with dementia who live in the main part of our Homes, and not just those in our specialist support areas.

Specialist training

Our main focus is on training staff, providing support to those with dementia and their families, and making minor adaptations to the Home environment. We are grateful to The Freemasons' Grand Charity for giving a grant to Dementia UK to enable them to provide us with the specialist dementia training required.

Three to four Homes a year are involved in our five-year dementia strategy, which started in September 2009. The first three Homes were Cornwallis Court in Suffolk; Connaught Court in York; and Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court in Mid Glamorgan. They have all responded positively to the changes. The Homes which have been participating in the strategy since September 2010 are Devonshire Court in Leicester; Queen Elizabeth Court in Llandudno; Barford Court in Hove; and Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court in Essex.

Person centred approach

It quickly became evident that we were not only looking at changing the culture and attitude towards people with dementia, but also incorporating

‘Our main focus is on training staff, providing support to those with dementia and their families, and making minor adaptations to the Home environment.’

a much wider change into a person centred approach to care and support within our Homes. This much wider strategy means we now actively involve our residents in all manner of initiatives, including care and support planning, relatives' support groups, changing roles and responsibilities of our staff group, medication review, developing and maintaining relationships, as well as other new initiatives looking at how we can support the Masonic community.

The Care and HR committee chaired by Sylvia Quayle will advise and guide our work during these times of change.

Whilst we recognise that we provide very good quality care and support to people living in our Homes, we look forward to developing our existing knowledge and expertise into an outstanding service for everyone within the RMBI.



“My relative, who has dementia, is well cared for. The attention by her carers is excellent and they always ensure she looks good.”

A relative of a resident at Shannon Court, Surrey





Care Advice Team

The aim of the Care Advice Team is to support Freemasons and their dependants both in the community and in RMBI Homes, whilst assisting Almoners and acting as ambassadors for the RMBI.

Here is a summary of the work undertaken by the Care Advice Team:

Care Advice

- How to remain in one's own home with the correct financial and care support
- Availability of care services/day care/luncheon clubs, etc
- Respite advice both for the carer and those they are caring for
- Advice on claiming the correct benefits
- Talks to RMBI staff within the Homes
- Carrying out pre-admission assessments when requested
- Helping when a resident's needs can no longer be met in their own home and a move is required.

Supporting Almoners/Provinces

- Working with the Provincial and Lodge Almoners
- Speaking at Provincial/Lodge meetings, Masonic Widows' Associations and open days at RMBI Homes.

RMBI Holidays

- Organising four two-week UK holidays sponsored by the RMBI and a two-week holiday in Malta sponsored by the Provinces.

Joint working

- Working closely with the three other central Masonic Charities to ensure that full support is provided to individuals.

"During our working day, members of the Care Advice Team meet many people and we're privy to their deepest thoughts and fears."



Care Advice Team Manager, Maggie Holloway, gives us an insight into the work of the Team and the impact it has on people's lives.

"During our working day, members of the Care Advice Team meet many people and we're privy to their deepest thoughts and fears. They also share with us very private information regarding their financial situation.

"Recently I attended a summer fayre at an RMBI Home. I spent around four hours there and, on my drive home, I felt quite euphoric. This was why:

"Whilst at the fayre, I met five very special people. The first was a charming gentleman who'd been a member of the group that I had accompanied to Malta. This was his first holiday for 22 years, as his dear wife had been ill and had sadly died last year.

"I next met a married couple who I'd visited last year when I carried out an assessment for the wife who had been in hospital for almost a year. Her husband was desperate that they should be together again and they are now both living at that particular RMBI Home and are very happy to be together again at last.

"I then came across another couple I'd also met before, as I had assessed the husband for potential Masonic Samaritan Fund funding for respite care. He and his wife were so pleased to see me and treated me as a long lost friend.

"Hopefully, you can now understand why I felt euphoric on my drive home. It brings to light how we are valued by the people we meet and support."



"Everything I need is there for me. Anything I want doing I only have to ask."

A resident at Scarbrough Court, Northumberland

Our Locations

1 Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court, Mid Glamorgan
Tel: 01656 785311
e: albertedward@rmbi.org.uk

2 Barford Court, Hove
Tel: 01273 777736
e: barford@rmbi.org.uk

3 Cadogan Court, Exeter
Tel: 01392 251436
e: cadogancourt@rmbi.org.uk

4 Connaught Court, York
Tel: 01904 626238
e: connaught@rmbi.org.uk

5 Cornwallis Court, Suffolk
Tel: 01284 768028
e: cornwalliscourt@rmbi.org.uk

6 Devonshire Court, Leicester
Tel: 01162 714171
e: devonshire@rmbi.org.uk

7 Ecclesholme, Manchester
Tel: 0161 788 9517
e: eccleshm@rmbi.org.uk

8 James Terry Court, Croydon
Tel: 020 8688 1745
e: jamesterry@rmbi.org.uk

9 Lord Harris Court, Berkshire
Tel: 01189 787496
e: lordharris@rmbi.org.uk

10 Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court, Essex
Tel: 01376 345534
e: stistedhall@rmbi.org.uk

11 Prince George Duke of Kent Court, Kent
Tel: 020 8467 0081
e: pgdokcourt@rmbi.org.uk

12 Prince Michael of Kent Court, Watford
Tel: 01923 234780
e: princemichael@rmbi.org.uk

13 Queen Elizabeth Court, Llandudno
Tel: 01492 877276
e: queenelizabeth@rmbi.org.uk

14 Scarbrough Court, Northumberland
Tel: 01670 712215
e: scarbrough@rmbi.org.uk

15 Shannon Court, Surrey
Tel: 01428 604833
e: shannon@rmbi.org.uk

16 The Tithebarn, Liverpool
Tel: 0151 924 3683
e: tithebarn@rmbi.org.uk

17 Zetland Court, Bournemouth
Tel: 01202 769169
e: zetland@rmbi.org.uk

Harewood Court, Hove
Tel: 01273 739515
Harewood Court has sheltered apartments for sale. To find out more, please contact our selling agents: Parsons Son & Basley on 01273 326171

Harry Priestley House, Doncaster
Tel: 01405 814 777
Managed on behalf of Masonic Care Limited by the RMBI, this Home accommodates a small group of adults with learning disabilities.

Robert Eliot Court, Cornwall
Tel: 01726 75349
Robert Eliot Court provides sheltered housing on a leasehold scheme. To find out more, please contact the Scheme Manager Jenny Pappin on 01726 75349





Creating the right environment

2009/10 saw the preparation and approval of a capital programme affecting the majority of our Homes. 2010/11 sees the implementation of the first part of this programme. We have been fortunate in issuing tenders at a time when contractors are hungry for work and keen in their tenders.

The most significant investment is the replacement of James Terry Court in Croydon on its current site. This has been designed to include a nursing wing and full provision for dementia care. The present Home has currently been reduced to 39 residents, who are staying on site while the works proceed. Once complete, it will be Home to 75 residents.

New Fire Regulations

The changes to the Fire Regulations have acted as a catalyst for much of our work programme. The work is disruptive so, where possible, we are trying to make sure that care provision is also improved. For example, we are installing some ceiling hoists and individual ensuite bathrooms to replace shared facilities. We're also building small extensions and planting secure gardens especially designed for those with dementia.

Under the new regulations, Fire Risk Assessments (which have to be updated annually) are now required for all our Homes, with the responsibility falling upon the RMBI to ensure

compliance. Greater emphasis is now given to evacuation, and this results in extensive need for rearrangement of compartments, and in measures to restrict the spread of smoke and fire.

A second lift in every Home

At the same time, the RMBI is trying to ensure that large items of maintenance are included. So, it is a pleasure to report that we have now completed a lengthy process of providing a second lift for every Home. As frailty increases, additional lifts have become essential for our residents.

Meanwhile, we continue to exploit the value of land that has no alternative care use. In the last year, the sale of the former bowling green at Prince George Duke of Kent Court in Chislehurst was completed and this has been replaced by an exceptional residential scheme. At Scarbrough Court in Northumberland, the land released by the building of the new Home has now been sold to Miller Group which will complete works here in 2010/11.



'We're also building small extensions and planting secure gardens especially designed for those with dementia.'



"Leaving a loved one in a Home is quite traumatic. In Barford Court she is so well cared for in a wonderful, clean and happy atmosphere, I cannot speak highly enough of this Home and the staff who work there."

A relative of a resident at Barford Court, Hove

Our staff, our strength

There are three ways we ensure we have staff of good calibre. Firstly, by selecting individuals whose care ethos is in tune with the care strategy at the RMBI. Secondly, by ensuring those staff members are then supported by leadership from the management teams and, thirdly, by providing our staff with relevant learning and development programmes. These pivotal aspects formed the basis of the HR strategic projects launched during 2009/10.

New leadership skills

Our care strategy brought about the launch of a far-reaching programme that involves cultural change and the development of leadership skills. Initial work has been to review what is expected of each staff group in order to enable them to deliver person centred care. The foundation of this work was concentrated in a small number of Homes to ensure the senior team was able to provide their full support in this transformational process.

The key staff development areas have included diploma level in Person Centred Care for Home Managers, tailored dementia training for all staff in the dementia support unit and staff forums. We have also piloted revised job profiles and improved our recruitment and selection methods, based on competencies and personality.

Holistic care

We aim to deliver a holistic care service which is an all-embracing delivery of person centred care throughout all our Homes and units. To achieve this, we must be able to support and motivate an engaged workforce. Looking at how we support, reward and recognise staff for the excellent work they do forms an important part of HR's strategic projects for the future.

HR's operational priorities during the year have been to support the Home's management teams in effectively and efficiently managing their staff. Specific projects have been to provide robust guidance and support to improve the working environment and flexibility of staff teams. This is to ensure we achieve optimum staffing levels dependent on the care needs at any particular time.

Changing legislation

A key challenge is the increasing legislative requirements - and managing the records and information that this demands. We have achieved



improvements through the expansion and development of the HR database system, which is now fully operational and supports all administrative activities associated with employing staff.

Automating and streamlining much of the staff administration processes eases the many and varied tasks of managing staff group. It also releases valuable management time to delivering good quality care to the residents who live in our Homes.

'Our care strategy brought about the launch of a far-reaching programme that involves cultural change and the development of leadership skills.'



"The staff are always kind and polite and stop to chat when they have time. I appreciate being treated as a normal human being and not a little old lady."

A resident at Connaught Court, York

Treasurer's Report

Encouragingly, during this period of global recession, the RMBI had a positive year, both in donated income and in Home income.

Overall, Masonic donations fell by approximately £0.8 million, as the London Appeal came to an end in November 2009. After a final flourish, over £6.3 million was raised over a three and a half year period. Thank you, London!

Legacies were again at the record level of £1.9 million for the third year running. However, the biggest concern has been the significant fall in our investment income.

On the brighter side, the Homes had a very good year compared to last year. Occupancy levels improved, as our marketing efforts to reduce high vacancy levels in certain Homes paid off.

The cost of running the Homes increased by 7%. This was mainly due to additional maintenance and fire safety work, following a thorough review of our property portfolio and recent fire legislation.

Despite the additional costs mentioned above, the Homes made an operating surplus of £1.1 million (2009 - £0.26 million). This was an excellent achievement and a testimony to the dedication and efficiency of all the staff.

Overall, the RMBI made an operating surplus of £2.3 million (2009 - £3.3 million) before the extraordinary items of investment gains and pension scheme loss. The Pension Scheme deficit did increase by over £1.3 million in the year and consultation is now in progress with staff to close the Scheme to all further service accruals.

Having transferred our investment portfolio to Fulcrum and Sarasin during the previous year, both managers were able to take advantage of the improving stock markets around



the world. This resulted in market gains of £8.3 million in the year, bringing our portfolio back to the level it was prior to the market crash of 2008.

During the year, the RMBI spent over £4.8 million on capital projects. The sale of non-operational land at Prince George Duke of Kent Court in Chislehurst, Kent helped defray some of this cash outlay.

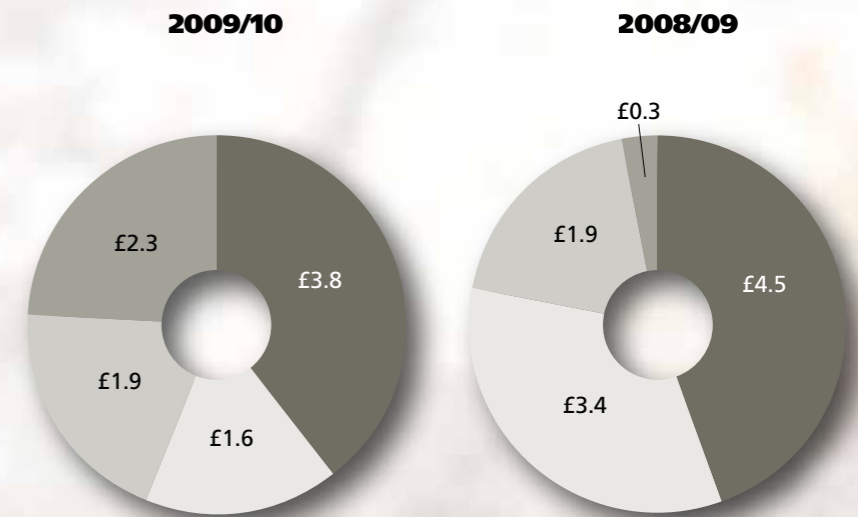
Having completed a full review of all capital projects and maintenance and fire safety requirements, the Trustees have agreed to support a substantial capital and planned maintenance programme over the next five years, amounting to a net cash outflow of £22 million.

Despite this capital commitment, the RMBI remains financially strong, with cash balances at March 2010 of £12.7 million and increased net assets of £113.6 million.

Charity Income

2009/10 **£9.6 million**
2008/09 **£10.1 million**

- Masonic donations
- Investments
- Legacies
- Miscellaneous



Charitable Expenditure

Taken from the Management Accounts

2009/10 **£5.8 million**
2008/09 **£5.3 million**

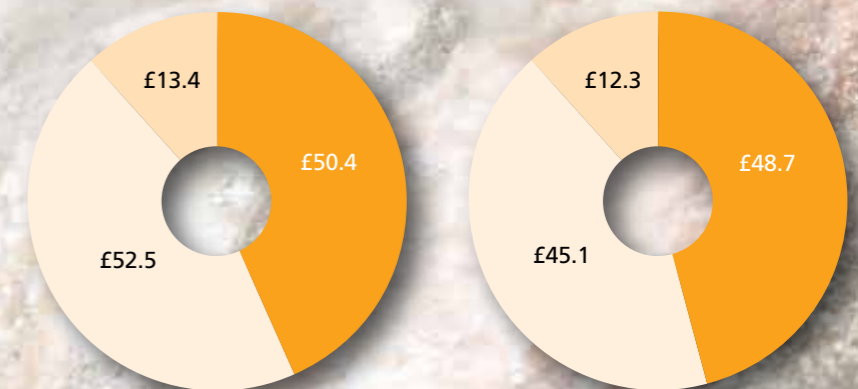
- Charitable support
- Central care
- Governance
- Fundraising



Cash and Other Assets

2009/10 **£116.3 million**
2008/09 **£106.1 million**

- Care Homes & Property
- Investments
- Net current assets





“We are always made to feel welcome. The staff are very pleasant and helpful and there is a lovely atmosphere in the Home. My relative is happy there and we feel the care is excellent.”

A relative of a resident at Cadogan Court, Exeter

How you can help

We rely on your support to provide our care services. There are a number of ways you can make a donation to help fund our work.

Committed giving

A regular gift is an easy way to support the RMBI. Setting up a monthly, quarterly or annual Standing Order is a very convenient way of donating to the RMBI.

Legacies

After you have ensured your loved ones are provided for, you may wish to consider leaving a gift in your will to the RMBI. We are grateful for any size of bequest to help ensure we have funds to continue our work. Here are some examples of how people have shown their support by leaving a gift in their will:

- Mr Eric Barraball left £159,447 in his will.
- Mrs Jessie Glass was a resident at Zetland Court and left £108,625 in her will to the RMBI.
- Commander Gordon Armstrong left £87,500 to date in his will.

Other donations

Every gift we receive, no matter how small, helps us to plan and respond to people’s needs. Our grateful thanks go to all who have generously supported our work.

- A £250 donation from Apollo University Chapter No. 357 was received for specific use towards our Home Lord Harris Court in Berkshire.
- A donation of £100,000 was received from the Walter Rollason Trust specifically for the extension to the dementia support unit at Shannon Court in Surrey.
- The Grand Stewards Lodge made a donation of £70,000 towards the work of the RMBI in Prince George Duke of Kent Court in Kent; James Terry Court in Croydon; Prince Michael of Kent Court in Watford; and providing specialist training on dementia care.

Gifts of Property, Land and Shares

If you are considering making any gifts of property, land or shares, please contact us to discuss in the strictest confidence on 020 7596 2400.

Gift Aid

If you are making a personal donation, please sign a Gift Aid form. This will ensure that, for every pound you donate, the RMBI will receive an extra 28p.

The RMBI can claim Gift Aid tax relief of 25p on every pound you give. HMRC will also be operating transitional provisions for Gift Aid donations made from 6 April 2008 until 5 April 2011, paying a Government supplement at 3p in every pound you give.

Justgiving.com

Justgiving.com is an easy-to-use website where you can sponsor someone who is taking part in an event or activity to raise money for the RMBI or make a donation using a debit/credit card. Simply visit www.justgiving.com/rmbi.

Become a Patron

Becoming a Patron of the RMBI is a special way of showing your support. You or your Lodge can make a one-off donation to achieve your Patronage level, or you can build it up over time.

Become an RMBI Speaker

You may wish to consider speaking at meetings on behalf of the RMBI to ensure that Brethren are aware of the services we provide. Speakers’ notes and resources are available to help you. Training is also available.

For more information on how to help, please visit our website at www.rmbi.org.uk or call 020 7596 2400.



“The staff are very good with my relative. I have recommended the Home to many people I have met in my local area.”

A relative of a resident at Cornwallis Court, Suffolk

The Association of Friends

The RMBI is committed to ensuring that residents in all our Homes receive the highest level of care and support. We rely on the generous support of Freemasons who play a significant role in our service provision.

In all RMBI Homes, a volunteer group of local Freemasons exists, called the Association of Friends. Each Association of Friends group has been established with the purpose of working with RMBI Homes to complement the service to residents. The groups are also a great opportunity for local Freemasons and their dependants to support the work of the RMBI in a practical way.

All the Associations of Friends are independently-registered charities and work to the following objectives:

Fundraising and events

A number of events and activities are organised each year to help raise funds for the benefit of residents in the Home. Working very closely with the Home Manager, members of the Association of Friends identify areas where practical assistance is required. These are items over and above those which are provided by the RMBI.

Here is a snapshot of just some of the activities that have been carried out by the various Association of Friends groups across RMBI Homes.

- **The Tithebarn, Liverpool** – twenty ceiling hoists have been installed in the nursing wing which was funded by their local group of Friends. The new ceiling hoists have greatly improved the mobility facilities at the Home.
- **Cadogan Court, Exeter** – thanks to the local Friends, the central courtyard at the Home has been flattened, resurfaced and landscaped to create a pleasant outdoor space for residents and their families to sit and relax.
- **Cornwallis Court, Suffolk** – the local group of Friends generously donated a new minibus which means many of the residents can now enjoy organised trips out.

'The groups are also a great opportunity for local Freemasons and their dependants to support the work of the RMBI in a practical way.'

Social events and entertainment for residents are regularly organised and members actively volunteer within the Home.

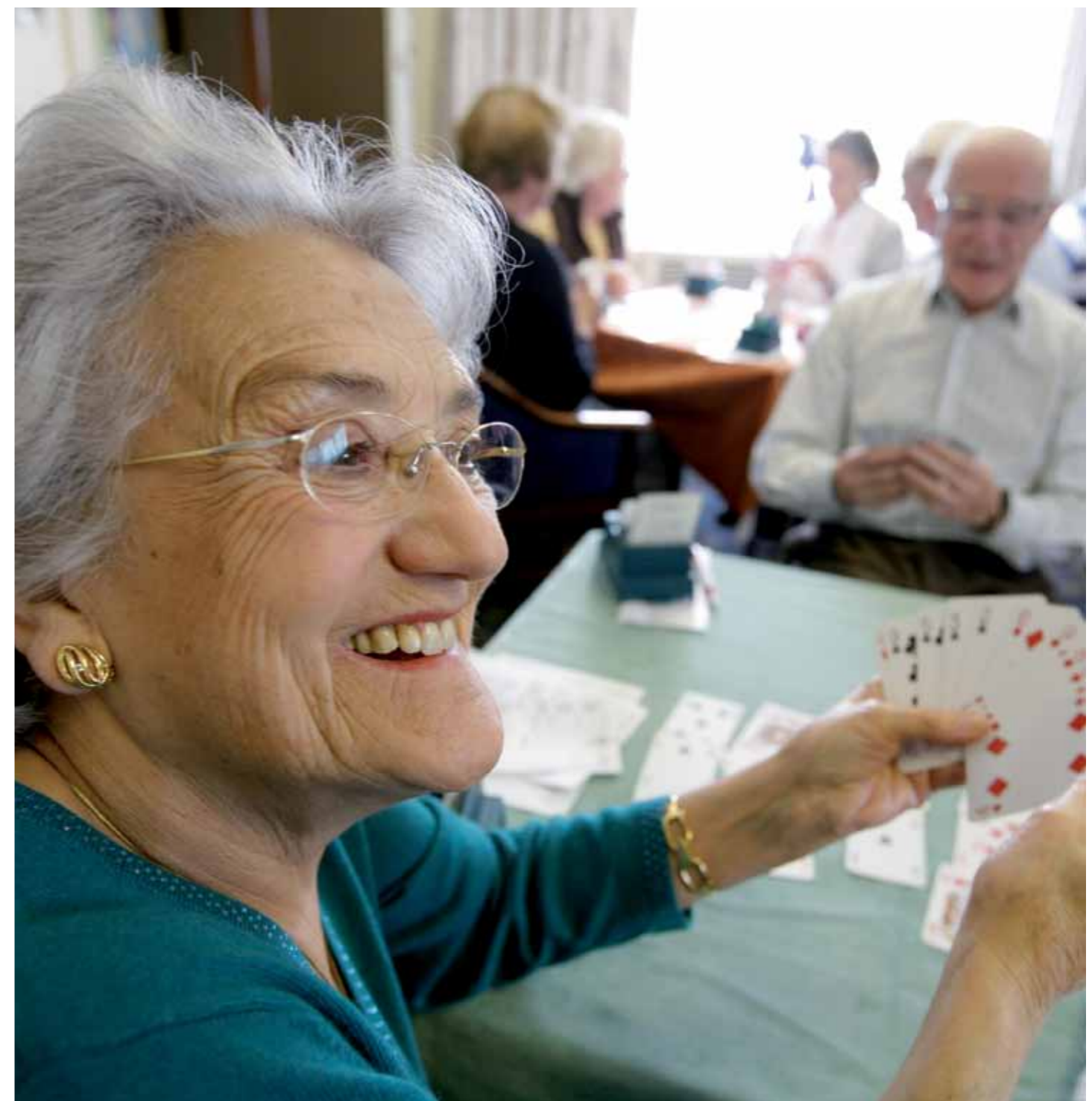
Befriending residents

Members of the Association of Friends play a pivotal role in befriending residents who have minimal or no contact with relatives. Their genuine acts of friendship provide comfort and reassurance to many.

The Association of Friends also works closely with lodges and other Masonic organisations to encourage their members and wives to support their work. They also assist residents wishing to attend Masonic meetings.

"Our relative is just like one of a very caring family. We feel part of this family and we are always made very welcome whenever we visit."

A relative of a resident at Zetland Court, Bournemouth



“There is a consistent sense of care and ‘robust life’ about the Home. It feels like a home rather than a ‘nursing’ home.”

A relative of a resident at Prince Michael of Kent Court, Watford

RMBI Festivals

The 2010 Durham Festival for the RMBI was launched in September 2005. At the launch meeting a donation of £180,000 was presented to get the Festival off to a good start.

There have been a number of fundraising activities over the period of the Festival. WBro Kenneth Howe, PSGD, APGM and Festival Chairman explains.

“I am very grateful to the Brethren who contributed on a regular basis through the Gift Aid scheme which enhanced their giving. I am also grateful to the Lodges that have given so generously, those giving in the early days being credited with a noteworthy amount of tax rebate.

“The Festival Balls have been most enjoyable and Raby Gala was highly successful, with over 15,000 people attending. The Brethren of the Province pulled together and responded to make that Gala a most successful happy family event, demonstrating to the community just what Freemasonry can achieve.”

Each year, a different Province celebrates the culmination of their Festival with an event attended by Brethren from the Province and their guests.

The Festival dinner was held on Thursday 25 September 2010 at the Rainton Meadows Arena, Nr Durham where the guest of honour was the Deputy Grand Master Jonathan Spence. This Annual Review went to press before we could announce details of the night and the amount raised. However, you can find all this information on our website at www.rmbi.org.uk



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